

Northern Virginia Gang Task Force

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FBI • ATF • ICE

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April 1, 2009

Congressman Frank Wolf
241 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Wolf:

The Northern Virginia Gang Task Force, now in its sixth year of operation, is making a difference in Northern Virginia communities as well as indirectly in other localities. The Task Force has fully engaged its resources in the fight to dismantle and disrupt gang crime through its enforcement efforts as well as its service to at-risk youth and families through prevention and intervention initiatives.

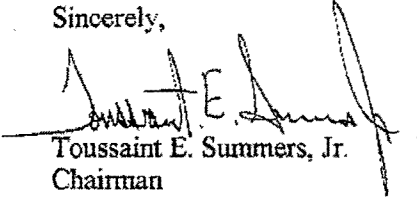
The Task Force's enforcement strategies have evolved as the gang's activity and operations have changed. Where overt street level gang activity was targeted in earlier years, successful enforcement operations have driven this activity out of our neighborhoods. Enforcement efforts are now able to focus on the gang hierarchy and target clique leaders responsible for organized violence. Additionally, enforcement personnel have built a solid partnership with the FBI and participate in several high profile gang cases culminating in federal prosecution. The Task Force was instrumental in one such case recently publicized where a MS-13 leader was indicted in connection with a shooting of rival gang members. The case had direct ties to leadership in El Salvador and provided clear evidence of the far reaching connections of this sinister organization and its ongoing targeted activities.

Due to a break in earmark funding in FY07, the prevention/intervention program suffered the most and some programs wound down and had to be restarted. With the return of earmark funding, much needed programs such as the IPE "Intervention, Prevention and Education" Program, a direct service program to offer counseling, mentoring, and case specific assistance to at-risk and gang-involved individuals and families, can now be expanded and continued.

The Task Force's success can only be attributed to dedicated funding, multi-jurisdictional and federal partnerships and its holistic approach. Continued enforcement, prevention and intervention efforts are as much in need today as they have ever been. As the federal budget moves forward, the Task Force Board would like to request \$3 million to fully fund the operating costs to cover these programs.

On behalf of the Task Force Board, we want to sincerely thank you for your support and we look forward to continuing these efforts to fight gang activity in the region.

Sincerely,



Toussaint E. Summers, Jr.
Chairman